

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
AGENDA NO. 14-09-18**

Date Published: September 11, 2014

For Work Week Commencing: September 15, 2014

Commission Meeting: September 18, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

*General Introduction* *This agenda is the Commission's agenda for the work week designated. In the latter part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://psc.mt.gov>.*

*Place of Meetings* *All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.*

*Live webcast* *Unless otherwise noted on this agenda, all Commission meetings held during regular business hours that are noticed on this agenda will be webcast live via the audio and video feed links on the PSC website at <http://psc.mt.gov> (go to "Agendas & Meetings" then "Audio/Video Archives"). The audio feeds of meetings are also archived at the same website location.*

*Inquiries* *General inquiries concerning this agenda and subscribing to electronic notice may be made to Kate Whitney at (406) 444-3056. She may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.*

*Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities* *Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.*

**9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling** (Commission Conference Room – No Web Audio Feed)

**9:30 a.m. Business** (Bollinger Room)

**Public Comments**

**Action Items** All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. Approval of Commission Minutes (Aleisha)

Approval of the Commission Minutes for the week of September 8, 2014

2. MDU Resources Group, Inc. D2014.8.75 (Eric)

On August 25, 2014, MDU Resources Group, Inc. applied for authority to issue over a two-year period \$1,000,000,000 of long-term financing in the following amounts: (1) the issuance of not to exceed \$1,000,000,000 of the Company's Common Stock; (2) the issuance of not to exceed \$150,000,000 of the Company's Preferred Stock and/or Preferred Stock A; (3) the issuance of not to exceed \$350,000,000 of the Company's secured debt securities; (4) the issuance of not to exceed \$350,000,000 of stock purchase contracts and (5) the issuance of not to exceed \$350,000,000 of hybrid securities such as convertible or unconvertible preferred securities, putable or callable instruments. The proceeds of these issuances will be used for funding the Company's capital requirements, for the refunding of its outstanding obligations, for corporate development including the acquisition of businesses or business assets and for other general corporate purposes. Probable Motion: Approve MDU Resources Group, Inc.'s application to issue securities for a two-year period ending December 31, 2016.

3. PSC Initiated - Operator Service Provider N2014.8.70 (Tina)

Each year the Commission must set new maximum allowable rates for operator service providers, per ARM 38.5.3403(2). The procedure to be used to determine the new caps is set out in the ARM, and requires the Commission to determine current rates in several categories for AT&T, Sprint, MCI and CenturyLink, average those rates, add 50%, and that becomes the new rate caps for the upcoming period of October 1 through September 30. A Notice of Commission Action has been routed with the proposed new rate caps that resulted from this year's calculation. Probable Motion: Approve rate caps for Operator Service Providers for October 1, 2014, through September 30, 2015.

**Work Sessions** All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated.

1. D2014.1.5 – NorthWestern Energy – QF-1 Tariff: Standard Avoided Cost Rates for QFs ≤ 3MW – Discuss and act on NorthWestern Energy’s Motion for Interim Rate Relief. (9/18/14)
2. EL13-73 (FERC) – Hydrodynamics, Inc., Montana Marginal Energy, Inc., & WINData, LLC – Petition for Enforcement and Declaratory Order Pursuant to Section 210(h) of PURPA – Discuss and act on taking the following actions in response to Hydrodynamics, Inc., 146 F.E.R.C. 61,193 (Mar. 20, 2014): (1) Lift the stay of the removal of the 50 MW installed capacity limit granted in Order 7199e, Docket D2012.1.3; and (2) Initiate a rulemaking to eliminate the requirement that long term contracts for QFs “greater than 3 MW in size shall be contingent upon selection...through an all-source competitive solicitation...” Admin. R. Mont. 38.5.1902(5). (9/18/14)

**Other Meetings**

**9/17/14 – 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. – NRRI teleseminar: “The US EPA Clean Power Plan: A Discussion about State Processes and State Comments” (Commission Conference Room – no web audio feed)**

Weekly Scheduling, Review of Monthly Calendars, and Docket Status Updates (if requested by a Commissioner).

**Notice Items** All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.mt.gov/Consumers/comments>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

**Protective Orders – Notice Items** The Commission has received the following requests for protective order pursuant to ARM 38.2.5007. Comments on the requests may be submitted at any time prior to ruling. Copies of these requests may be viewed on the Commission’s web site at <http://psc.mt.gov>

**Protective Orders – Information Items** The Commission has issued the following protective orders. These orders may be challenged pursuant to ARM

38.2.5008. Copies of these orders may be viewed on the Commission's web site at <http://psc.mt.gov>

**Information Items** All items identified below are for information only.

**Lincoln Telephone Company** **N2014.8.76** **(Mike)**

On August 25, 2014, Lincoln Telephone Company filed a Notice of Proposed Increase in Local Service Rates pursuant to Section 69-3-901, MCA, *et seq.* Lincoln proposes to increase its Residential Measured Local Exchange Access rate from \$13.95/month to \$16.00/month to comply with the FCC benchmark for monthly exchange access rates. Pursuant to § 69-3-906, MCA, subscribers affected by the proposed rate increase may petition the Commission to review and determine the rates. If by the 60th day following Lincoln's notice to subscribers of the proposed rate increase, the Commission has not received petitions containing signatures from at least 10% of the affected subscribers or a petition for review from the Montana Consumer Counsel, the Commission shall certify this fact to the small telecommunications provider and the proposed rate increase will become effective as requested.

**Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC (Qwest) Multi State and Individual Case Basis Agreements**

Any qualified person who signs a non-disclosure agreement pursuant to the term protective Order No. 6999 in Docket No. D2009.5.60 may review the following agreements at the Commission's offices, 1701 Prospect Ave. Helena, MT, 59620, or at Qwest's office, 441 North Park Avenue, Helena, Mt. 59601. If any interested party has reason to believe that Qwest's prices are below relevant costs in the agreements, the interested party may file an objection with the Commission within 30 days of the date of this notice (please see Qwest Alternative Form of Regulation (AFOR) Docket No. D2008.1.3, Order No. 6889n, Joint Stipulation).

- 1.) Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink (Qwest) and Crescent Electric Supply Co. have signed a Multi-State Agreement for Qwest to provide certain telecommunications services to Crescent Electric Supply Co.

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

D2014.9.79 - Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. - Application for Authority to Implement a Gas Cost Tracking Adjustment Change Effective for the Period Oct 1, 2014 through Sept 30, 2015